



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, September 16, 2014 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Laura Ball, Bob Burpee, Peter Calamari, David Kessler, Michelle Miller, Rob Wendling and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Paula Deming was also present representing the Arbor Committee.

Worthington resident, Judy Haagar, of 306 East New England Avenue was also present.

The minutes from the July 15, 2014 meeting were approved.

Judy Haagar – Mrs. Haagar contacted Alan Little from the Parks Division with a few concerns about East Granville Road Park containing the Moses Wright Nature Preserve. Her concerns were mowing down some thistles so they did not spread into her yard; litter around the historical oak tree; fallen debris from trees was being used to build forts and a ladder; and a pot hole in the parking lot. Mrs. Haagar complimented Mr. Little for his genuine concern and prompt attention to these matters. He addressed all of her complaints and contacted her when completed. Mr. Hurley responded that he submitted a work order for the pothole in the parking lot. Mrs. Haagar also commented that she has some concerns about drug activity in the park, since she has found drug paraphernalia and has witnessed suspicious activity. The commission asked her to call the non-emergency number of the Worthington Police if she questions any activity in the park. Mrs. Haagar also asked Mr. Hurley to look into some trees that have twine tied around them, some debris from a split rail fence, and the interpretive signs needing cleaned up as they are hard to read.

Community Center Roof Replacement – Mr. Hurley described to the Commission that the complete replacement of the newer addition roof has begun. Nation's Roof was awarded the contract for \$1.3 million for its completion which is being paid for out of the city's general fund. They are contracted to be done by December 13, 2014. One issue has already arisen with a wooden support beam over the natatorium below the overhead windows. It had a section that had rotted under the windows and needed to be repaired. Mr. Hurley hopes the repair will not cause the pool to close for any significant amount of time.

Parks Master Planning – Mr. Hurley described the importance of having a plan to guide park improvements for the City. In order to be proactive there is a need to develop a plan with priorities listed to help in planning and securing funding for park improvements.

Mr. Kessler used the UMCH property as an example citing how having a list of desired amenities or needs could have been used when discussing options for that space. Also, up until now the city has just been replacing or fixing existing structures so he agreed on the importance of a future vision. Mrs. Ball thought the Vision 2020 document was missing some demographics and forecasting for the future. She would also like to be ready to take advantage of opportunities that would impact the parks of Worthington. Mrs. Ball also suggested that the staff will need to lead the process. Mrs. Miller agreed that staff driven with Commission feedback would be the best option.

Mr. Kessler suggested that the October meeting possibly could be a tour of the parks, and others seemed interested. Mr. Hurley agreed that he would try to organize a tour, taking into account weather and daylight.

Other – Mr. Wendling commented that the Selby Park Playground had an area of rubber surfacing that may need patching. Mr. Hurley commented he would have staff investigate.

Mr. Burpee relayed a comment from his neighbor about the fitness floor attendants not being accessible. He asked if there was anything that could be done to make them more approachable. Mr. Hurley asked for the date and time the neighbor uses the fitness floor, and he would talk to the supervisor about the comment. Mr. Hurley shared this had been a priority for staff so he wants feedback if others experience this.

Being no further business, the motion for the meeting to adjourn was granted.